

It is my belief that morse code i.e. Element 1 has seen its better day. While Element 1 has had its place in history it is truly just that history. There are so many better ways to communicate over the HF bands now than there was when amateur radio was in its infancy. With the average age now of a ham radio operator going up and up this hobby is truly dieing a slow death. Unless the morse code requirement is dropped this hobby will certainly die and with it the emergency capability of that service. Now I'm not asking for a complete elimination of the code the sub-bands are needed for those wanting it. But here is an idea; Keep the 5 wpm requirement for the Extra class license it would be something truly Extra. The General and Technician license classes should have a no-code option. Also it's my belief that the Technician and Technician plus should merge. Here is the reasoning: If you give the Technician license class the Technician plus privileges they will get parts if the CW sub-band and therefore if they want to play with CW they can and who knows get there Extra class license. Than the extra class license would truly be just that Extra.

There are so many modes now a day. You have CW, VOICE, RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, PSK31, and PACKET just to mention a few. Do we really need to a CW requirement anymore? If you listen to the HF bands now a day you are listening mostly to computer generated morse code. The idea of a fist on the air is almost non-existent theses days. While they are around yet they are no longer rule.

From talking to other hams a vast majority of newer hams have never made a CW contact their only doing the CW because it's required. Not because they have any intention of ever using it. Therefore it's my belief that if the FCC does not wish to remove the CW requirement completely that it only require it for the Extra class license.

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